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February 3, 2026

**SUPPORT: HB 40 Public Utilities - Transmission Lines - Advanced
Transmission Technologies**

Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee:

Maryland LCV supports HB 40 - Public Utilities - Transmission Lines - Advanced Transmission Technologies, and we thank Delegate Charkoudian for her leadership and commitment to ensuring grid reliability and resource adequacy in Maryland.

HB 40 represents an important step forward in modernizing Maryland's transmission planning framework, at a time when the state must integrate increasing levels of clean energy, meet rising electricity demand, and minimize costs to ratepayers. Advanced Transmission Technologies (ATTs) include grid-enhancing technologies (GETs), high-performance conductors, and storage used as transmission. ATTs offer cost-effective, efficient, and flexible alternatives to build new transmission lines.

ATTs can improve the capacity, efficiency, reliability, and resilience of both new and existing transmission infrastructure, often at a [lower cost](#) and faster implementation than traditional upgrades. Unlike traditional transmission line projects, which can take [years](#) to plan, site, permit, and gain community acceptance, ATTs can typically be deployed [more quickly](#), offering a faster solution to address grid constraints.

HB 40 appropriately strengthens the Public Service Commission's review of new overhead transmission line proposals by requiring CPCN applicants to demonstrate that their internal planning processes evaluated alternatives to the proposed line, including the use of ATTs, alternative routing options, and distribution-level technologies or modifications that could avoid the need for new transmission altogether. Additional considerations under this bill include the costs to ratepayers, resource adequacy, energy efficiency, and demand response, as well as the impact of the project on the environment. This allows for a better assessment of the viability and necessity of a transmission construction project. HB 40 also requires regular reporting on transmission congestion and opportunities for deploying ATTs, with an initial report due by December 1, 2026, and subsequent reports every four years thereafter.

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These reports will help identify where targeted, lower-cost upgrades could relieve system constraints and maximize the use of existing infrastructure before more expensive construction is pursued. **Passing this bill will help us get the most out of the grid that we have in a cost-effective way.**

ATTs play a crucial role in integrating renewable energy sources into the grid, to meet increasing electricity demand and achieve the state's climate goals. A 2024 [report](#) by RMI highlighted that GETs could enable the integration of 6.6 GW of new clean energy onto PJM's grid, which would support regional reliability and save approximately \$1 billion in production costs annually.

Advanced conductors, which can carry [50% to 110%](#) more power than conventional lines thanks to more efficient materials, can be deployed on existing towers and rights of way to replace older transmission wires. Likewise, storage on the transmission grid offers a cost-effective alternative to building new transmission lines by enhancing system flexibility, managing congestion, reducing renewable curtailment, supporting grid stability, and providing quicker solutions to meet clean energy goals and address resource adequacy concerns.

As the development of renewable energy projects accelerates, ATTs play a vital role in addressing the challenge of limited space on the grid, expediting interconnection processes, and reducing delays. These technologies ensure a smoother transition to a cleaner energy future, enhance grid reliability, and help reduce costs.

ATTs have less land use impacts compared to traditional transmission lines, meaning less disruption to communities and the environment. They can also improve grid access and reliability for [underserved or vulnerable communities](#), ensuring that energy justice is a priority in the state's transition to a more sustainable energy system.

Maryland LCV wants to Power Maryland Forward, supporting **energy affordability** through **deployment of solar and storage, defense against more fossil fuels** and **unchecked utility profits**, while **getting the most out of the electricity grid we have**. Maryland LCV urges a favorable report on this important bill as part of this framework.